

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0312

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05842

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, AV, SC, RQ

SUBJECT: TALKS ON DOG ISLAND

1. STATE, EMBASSY AND DOD REPS MET WITH COUNTERPARTS FROM BRITISH GOVERNMENT MORNING APRIL 16 TO DISCUSS US REQUEST FOR USE OF DOG ISLAND AS TARGET TRAINING FACILITY BY USN. CHARGE SPIERS CHAIRED US DELEGATION, WHILE BRITISH GROUP HEADED BY SIR DUNCAN WATSON, DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO. AFTERNOON SESSION FOLLOWED ON MORE TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH DUFF (WEST INDIAN AND ATLANTIC DEPARTMENT) HEADING BRITISH SIDE, SPIERS ABSENT. MEETINGS SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED MAIN PURPOSES OF BOTH SIDES: FOR US, AGREEMENT ON A JOINT BRITISH-US STATEMENT (SEPTEL) WHICH NOTES THAT DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING ON AND WHICH CAN BE GIVEN TO PUERTO RICANS; AND, FOR BRITISH, USE OF SAME STATEMENT WITH ANGUILLANS, PLUS INFORMATION CONCERNING TECHNICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF US CONCEPTS WHICH BRITISH NEED TO DETERMINE SALEABILITY OF PROJECT TO ANGUILLANS AND ST. KITTIANS.

2. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT THIS STATEMENT IS MAXIMUM THAT COULD BE EXPECTED AT THIS TIME AND ANTICIPATE IT WILL SERVE PURPOSE OF SHOWING PUERTO RICANS AND ANGUILLANS THAT USG AND HMG MAKING PROGRESS. AT SAME  
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TIME, STATEMENT WILL NOT PREJUDICE BRITISH ON SOVEREIGNTY

QUESTION.

BRITISH

ANTICIPATE THAT SOME SOLUTION TO SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION MUST BE FOUND WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS AND THAT IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT OUR DOG ISLAND REQUEST NOT BECOME CONTENTIOUS DURING THIS CRITICAL TIME.

3. DURING DISCUSSIONS ON TECHNICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF US CONCEPT, US PARTICIPANTS PROVIDED MOST OF ANSWERS THAT BRITISH FEEL THEY NEED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH ANGUILLANS AND ST. KITTIANS. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, SEVERAL OUTSTANDING ITEMS, INCLUDING TYPE OF AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE PROPOSED, METHOD OF PAYMENT FOR RENT AND FINANCING OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY PROJECTS, THAT WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED.

4. PROGRESS MADE DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS WAS HIGHLY SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. BRITISH NOW CONSIDERING HOW TO APPROACH WEBSTER AND BRADSHAW AND ALSO WILL BE PREPARING POSITION FOR MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONSIDERATION. BRITISH UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN FROM MINISTERS AUTHORIZATION FOR DOD-SPONSORED CIVILIAN CONTRACTED ON-SITE SURVEY OF DOG ISLAND TO DETERMINE ULTIMATE FEASIBILITY OF PROJECT.

5. DURING AFTERNOON MEETING BRITISH WERE ESPECIALLY FORTHCOMING AND POINTED OUT THAT INITIAL ESTIMATES FOR ELECTRIFICATION OF ANGUILLA WERE ENORMOUSLY EXAGGERATED AND THAT FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MET AT MUCH LOWER LEVEL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. BRITISH STUDY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE SOON. APART FROM CONCERN OVER BRADSHAW/WEBSTER PROBLEMS YET TO BE RESOLVED, BRITISH HAVE EVIDENTLY ADOPTED POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROPOSAL, PROVIDED IT WILL NOT COST THEM ANY MORE THAN THEY NOW OBLIGED TO SPEND TO UNDERWRITE ANGUILLAN BUDGET DEFICIT.

6. FULL MEMCON WILL BE POUCHED.

SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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